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Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs

competitive communities Initiative

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

DCCA's Competitive Communities Initiative

Why has CCI been developed?

Research and experience show that there is a direct link between the economic well-being of a state and the ability of its communities to compete with similar communities. Based on this information Governor Edgar has given State agencies the directive to make State programs and projects responsive to the needs of the local communities.

Governor Edgar in his 1995 State of the State message said state government should be:

- a catalyst for change,
- a unifying force that brings churches, parents, local business, schools and community organizations together to break down barriers that limit effective programs and,
- rather than attempting to impose solutions from Springfield we must look to the local communities to identify their needs.

Is your Community ready for the 21st Century?

In today's fast paced society it is more important than ever for communities to be ready to respond to the multitude of problems and opportunities they face. Competitive communities take

a leadership role in determining their own futures, they know where they want to go, and how to get there.

The Competitive Communities Initiative (CCI) can help your community become competitive for business retention, expansion and attraction, living up to its potential. CCI is a dynamic, hands on project. It will help your community to prosper in the 21st Century.

The success of your CCI project will depend entirely on the efforts your community is willing to make.

Communities don't have to compete with one another, but they do need to be competitive.

Questions & Answers

Question: What is CCI?

Answer: CCI is a project that was developed based on the theory that a rigorous local self-assessment linked to an action plan is the most important step a community can make toward a positive future.

Question: Who's in charge of CCI?

Answer: The local community.

Question: Where is it done?

Answer: The project is done in the local community and is driven by the communities needs and interests.

Question: How much does it cost?

Answer: CCI is free to participating communities. The cost is in the time committed by local leaders.

Question: What's the finished product?

Answer: A locally developed community plan, including action and implementation.

Question: How do we get started?

Answer: Contact the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (see reverse side for address).

DCCA provides:

- A CCI staffer who will serve as your community's guide and resource person.
- Criteria for a locally directed self-assessment to the local community group.
- Assistance drafting a memorandum of agreement between the community, DCCA and any third parties.
- A resource catalog for community/economic development.
- Access to a library of "best of practice."
- Long-term follow-up service to participating communities.
- Linkage to technical resources, funding sources, and private or governmental agencies.

Please complete request form and return to: Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Office of Local Initiatives, 620 East Adams Street, S-5, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Or call 217/524-1931; TDD, 800/785-6055.

Yes I am interested. Please: Send me an application form Put me on your mailing list

Community _____

Contact Person _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

Communities will be selected on a competitive bases, need, location and other external factors may be considered.

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